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EMBASSY RADIATION
BY BARTON REPERT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, WALTER STOESSEL, HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO RADIATION CARRIED INTO HIS EMBASSY OFFICE OVER STOESSEL'S OWN TELEPHONE LINE, ACCORDING TO A STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE.

THE PHONE-WIRE RADIATION WAS DISCOVERED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE SOURCE SAID, BY A TEAM OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS DISPATCHED TO MOSCOW TO INVESTIGATE MICROWAVES APPARENTLY BEING BEAMED AT THE EMBASSY BY THE SOVIETS.

THE CIA'S TESTS SHOWED RADIATION CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN EARLIER TESTS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF SECURITY, THE SOURCE SAID.

CIA PERSONNEL OPERATE MUCH OF THE EMBASSY'S HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, HOUSED IN UPPER FLOORS OF THE 10-STORY STRUCTURE. THOSE SAME FLOORS -- WHICH ALSO CONTAIN THE OFFICES FOR STOESSEL AND OTHER TOP U.S. DIPLOMATS -- HAVE BEEN THE MAIN TARGET OF THE SEARCHLIGHT-LIKE MICROWAVE BEAMS.

THE REASON BEHIND THE SOVIET MICROWAVES REMAINS UNCLEAR. IT ALSO WAS UNCLEAR WHY STOESSEL'S TELEPHONE LINE WAS CONDUCTING RADIATION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME SUGGESTION THAT THE RADIATION FOUND ON THE TELEPHONE-LINE WAS AN UNINTENDED BY-PRODUCT OF THE MICROWAVES.

THE MICROWAVES AIMED AT THE BUILDING ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING USED EITHER TO FOIL REPUTED U.S. ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICES OR TO ALLOW THE SOVIETS SOMEHOW TO EAVESDROP ON THE EMBASSY.

SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, ALUMINUM SCREENING HAS BEEN INSTALLED ON THE EMBASSY'S WINDOWS TO HELP BLOCK OUT RADIATION.

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HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER THE SCREENING WAS INSTALLED, THE CIA FOUND THAT STOESEL'S OUTSIDE TELEPHONE WIRE WAS "BRINGING THE RADIATION RIGHT INTO HIS OFFICE ON THAT LINE BECAUSE OF THE EXPOSURE -- THE WAY THE LINE IS HOOKED UP," THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID.

THE SOURCE NOTED THAT "THESE NEW TESTS THAT WERE MADE, WITH NEW EQUIPMENT, PICKED IT UP WHERE NOBODY HAD PICKED IT UP BEFORE."

EARLIER TESTS HAD FAILED TO DETECT THE PHONE-LINE RADIATION, HE SAID, BECAUSE STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL USED "FAULTY EQUIPMENT."

THE CIA TESTING TEAM ALSO DETECTED RADIATION BEING CONDUCTED INTO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE ALONG WIRES CONNECTED TO AN OVERHEAD LIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, WHO REQUESTED THAT HE NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

THE SOURCE SAID THAT WHEN STOESEL WAS INFORMED OF THE NEW RADIATION TESTS, THE AMBASSADOR WAS "BESIDE HIMSELF" AND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN IN CLASSIFIED CABLES TO LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT.

IN RECENT WEEKS, ELECTRONIC SPECIALISTS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO TRY TO MINIMIZE RADIATION FROM THE TELEPHONE LINE AND OVERHEAD LIGHT WIRES, THE SOURCE REPORTED.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT RADIATION POWER LEVELS WERE INDICATED BY THE CIA'S TESTS, BUT SAID THEY APPARENTLY RANGED UP TO THREE TO FOUR TIMES HIGHER THAN LEVELS DETECTED PREVIOUSLY.

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